Leys News

Delivered FREE to over 5000 homes across the Leys

Issue 63 - October 2008

Leys Fair reels them in!

Community pulls itself apart: The tug-of-war competition was a great success.

HELD ON SATURDAY 13 September Leys Fair 2008 happened upon a day of glorious weather and proved to be a tremendous community success. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people turned out to the annual fair at Blackbird Leys Park and Leisure Centre, which had a green and healthy living theme running through it this year.

The rainy weather that nearly caused the cancellation of the fair may have helped the event become more successful through the organisers condensing the fair's activities in front of the Leisure Centre. The day itself was perfect for an end-of-summer community event where the sun shone and people forgot about the miserable summer behind them.

Thousands of local people joined in over the five hours of the event, and sampled the many free things on offer, such as activities in the Health Tent and in the Community Hall, the tug of war competition and free activities for the under eights. Organiser Paul Isaacs, said that this was definitely one of the most successful fairs yet, where everything came together at the right time.

See centre pages for more photos.

Greater Greater Leys?

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL'S ruling Labour group's request to the Boundary Commission for a review of the city boundaries to include land south of Grenoble Road, so that it can be in a position to become the planning authority for the building of 4000 homes has been met with a chorus of opposition from neighbouring parish councils, South Oxfordshire District Council and the majority Conservative group on Oxfordshire County Council. They all oppose building the homes on what is currently arable and Green Belt land.

The Green Party is also resolutely opposed to the building of houses on green field sites. The land in question is owned by Magdalen College, Oxford and Thames Water Limited.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears, supports review of part of Oxford's Green Belt to allow the new homes to be built, as does Housing Minister Caroline Flint, who gave support to the scheme on a recent visit to the city. Liberals on Oxford City, who see the need for further homes, but do not support the strategy that the Labour Group in Oxford has adopted, see it as confrontational and would prefer a dialogue with neighbouring South Oxfordshire. Any scheme is likely to be a few years away from being built. The consultation on the proposal closes on October 24.

Where housing meets the countryside at Grenoble Road. What about the pylons then?

Blackbird Leys Parish Council has not discussed the issue recently, but when it did some months ago generally supported the initiative providing that the community benefitted from new facilities through planning gain money.

What's happening in the music world?

See Trisha's beats, page 5

I'm a tiger!

Pegasus Street Party, centre pages.

Who's the Daddy?

Turn to the Leys Creativity, page 5 and find out.

Want better football skills?

Turn to backpage now!

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October 2008

Leys News is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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. . . . Letters . . .

Through your paper I would like to congratulate Parish Councillor Cyril Martin for his excellent work in getting a pedestrian crossing in Cuddesdon Way. He organised a petition along with Cllr Smith and myself which collected signatures from residents of this estate and then presented them to the County Council calling for a crossing.

At last the County have agreed to this request and I believe that because of Cyril's continuing campaign the crossing is now a reality. It will help the youngsters to cross this road in realative safety to get to the park and other facilities. Well done Cyril you've done a great job.

Brian Lester

Letters can be emailed to editor@leysnews.co.uk or sent to Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, OX4 7BX

Leys News Drop-in
Wednesday, 22 October
At Leys Linx, Blackbird Leys Community Centre, 1pm-2pm

Come along and tell us your news, or comment on how we can improve the paper.

. . . Editorial . . .

Al Cane returns!

IT'S GREAT TO be back at Kingfisher Green as editor of Leys News after almost five years away. I find that some people and things have moved on, but what hasn't changed is the welcome I've received so far from people who remember me from my last stint here between 1999 and 2003. Thanks to my predecessor Kate Griffin for all that she did for the paper.

What Leys News really needs now is new volunteers to get involved in the running and production of our community newspaper, it seems that the last batch of volunteers all went and got themselves jobs, which is great for them, but we need to find more people to fill their shoes.

One of the most important developments is the start of our short courses in community journalism and photography, please see elsewhere on this page for further information. As ever we want people to tell us what they think about the paper, about issues on the Leys and about their success stories - so write your letters, send your emails, or give us a call.

On the horizon are the fledgling plans to extend the Leys into the countryside south of Grenoble Road, we'd like to find out what people think about the prospect having another 4000 homes on our doorstepas well as the impact on people's lives of the uncertain economic climate. Look out for the man in the hat carrying a camera...

Cyril gets the crossing improved

BLACKBIRD LEYS Parish Council member Cyril Martin has got Oxfordshire County Council to agree to put in an improved humped pedestrian crossing across Cuddesdon Way from Blackbird Leys Park to the Children's Centre and Orchard Meadow School, after much campaigning and lobbying, although he would have preferred a pelican crossing.

The county has agreed to upgrade the current crossing by repairing damaged surfaces, put in more visible bollards and raising the surface of the hump to the height of the curb.

Tactile paving will also be installed to help people who are visually impaired.

The scheme has been made part of the Better Ways to School project and is expected to be completed in January next year.

Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Transport with Cyril Martin.

The crossing on Cuddesdon Way that will be upgraded in January.

Police take action on dealers

THAMES VALLEY POLICE have admitted that they took their eye off the ball while focused on other priorities, allowing crack and heroin dealers to move back in to deal in the alleyways between Warburg Crescent and Cuddesdon Way and Balfour Road and Druce Way. They have stepped up patrols in this precise area in an effort to stamp up this type of activity. Neighbours welcomed the news that the police were taking more action.

Community Journalism Project with Leys News

Introductory meeting: Wednesday 8th October, 5.30 pm in Leys News office, Kingfisher Green

Come along on Wednesday evening for an informal introduction to community journalism and photography where we will talk about this project and you can decide if and how you would like to be involved. This is a flexible scheme which can be undertaken alongside work, studying, family or other commitments. Once you have been trained you will receive a small fee for your published contributions.

Get involved with Leys News:

Paper Boy/Girl/Man/woman
To deliver Leys News every two months. Phone Anna on 711756 for details of pay and hours. Must be over 14.

Admin Volunteer
We would love to have a volunteer to help us in the office with general admin work two mornings or afternoons a week. You need to have used computers before but no other experience is necessary. You will benefit by gaining experience and a reference for future paid work and by knowing you have made a contribution to your local community paper. Phone Anna on 711756 for details.

__Leys News__ acknowledges valuable advice from Matt Dillon at Lloyds TSB and Mark Rusher from Critchleys. __Leys News__ acknowledges financial assistance from: BMW Group Plant Oxford, Catalyst Communities Housing Association, DW Contractors, Oxford Citizens Housing Association, Oxford Brookes University, Blackbird Leys Parish Council, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Oxford City Council's South East Area Committee, and support from Newsquest (Oxfordshire).

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At the forefront of a green revolution at Pegasus

Al Cane visited the Boiler Room Café and allotments at Pegasus School

NEARING THE END of a school day the Boiler Room Café at Pegasus School has an expectant air around it, because it's about to fill up with parents and their children and even some members of the school's staff keen for a snack or a drink and a chat before going home.

The café, which has been open for some time, is part of the school's positive approach to healthy eating which involves both the students and the local community.

This is a twin-track approach with catering manager Claire Swan co-ordinating the school kitchen and cafe and Ali Dring, outdoor learning co-ordinator, in charge of getting the school's allotments established and involving the students every step of the way.

The Boiler Room Café, which used to be the school's boiler room, sits right at the entrance to the school, is now a light and bright space and feels inviting from the start.

The café, which is open to all, six days a week from 9am, offers a selection of baguettes, quiches, home-made pizzas, healthy salads, soups, cakes, hot and cold drinks, at very reasonable prices. Because this is a community cafe, the costs are covered to provide healthy foods for all and sundry and to help change eating habits. One of Claire's missions is to get more of the students eating school dinners.

Several students proudly show off the allotments that they have helped to create this year in the school grounds and have with a feeling of ownership. They talk about the marrows they have planted that have been cooked in the kitchen as part of a school meal.

There are pumpkins, potatoes, cabbages and beans coming up in the different beds and a different herb at the end of each one. Much of the produce grown is now used in both the school kitchen and in the Boiler Room.

The allotment planning work is down to Ali Dring, whose job it is to get the children involved and active outside, while learning at the same time. The allotments have had the help of several volunteers, but can always use a few more.

Claire says that wherever possible they use local, organic, local and ethically produced food (much of it their own) and that the Boiler Room also does outside catering. She says that the tone of the café changes somewhat on a Saturday when they do a fry up for those who want a hearty breakfast.

To find out more about the Boiler Room call them on 749808 or to volunteer at the allotments call the school on 777175 and remember that the café is there for everyone to enjoy healthy food at a fair price.

Left: Pupils at Pegasus School in the school allotment.

Below: Clair Swan taking orders at the café's counter.

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Get it on screen!

THEY CALL IT Dream2Screen, and it's the newly launched training facility about to start operating out of the multi-media hub housed in Blackbird Leys Community Centre. The aim of the project, according to manager Calvin Goodgame, is to enable people to get on board with various courses in video journalism using the centres high tech equipment. He says that the aim is to get people out filming in the community, editing their work and then posting it to sites like YouTube for all to view and get feedback from.

They are kicking off with a free weekly course on the image editing programme Photoshop at the IT Hub, and will follow on with courses in the use of high definition cameras, lighting, sound and video editing.

The courses are free up to the end of the year and are open to anyone living in Oxfordshire. After that some charging will come into effect, but it will still be affordable for those on low incomes or out of work.

To get in touch call the Community Centre on 714492.

In the picture: technical support worker Rohan Murray, left, with Calvin Goodgame.

A brand new Christmas adventure in the Mirror Tent!

A FAIRYTALE CHRISTMAS is on the way as Oxford's leading theatre company announces its latest show. Following its open-air summer season, Creation Theatre Company has begun taking bookings for its Christmas show, Hans Christian Andersen's Magical Tales in the beautiful 100-year old Mirror Tent (Spiegeltent) at BMW Group Plant Oxford from 25 November 2008 until 17 January 2009.

The show promises to be a rollercoaster ride through some of the best-loved fairytales – including The Emperor's New Clothes, The Little Mermaid, The Princess and the Pea and The Little Match Girl – as you've never seen them before. The brand new script has been written by Lizzie Hopley, who wrote Creation's hugely popular Christmas 2005 show The Snow Queen. Hopley also wrote The Oxford Passion for Creation in 2007, and most recently could be seen playing Beatrice in this summer's production of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing at Oxford Castle.

The velvet canopies, mirrored roof and ornate pillars and booths of the antique Mirror Tent make the perfect setting for Han's Christian Andersen's Magical Tales, creating an enchanting ambience for these well-loved stories. Fantastic adventures, incredible characters and mysterious magic are produced in Creation Theatre Company's unique and dynamic way. Following the sell-out success of last year's Tales from the Brothers Grimm, the show will again be performed 'in the round', with the action taking place on a circular stage in the centre of the tent. The cabaret-style seating allows the audience to sit at candle-lit tables to watch the performance, adding further to the spell-binding experience.

David Parrish, Producer and Artistic Director of Creation Theatre Company said "We are delighted to be back for another show in the Mirror Tent. The tent is incredibly popular with our audiences and works beautifully with our innovative style of storytelling. Many families tell us that a trip to the Mirror Tent to see a Creation show is the highlight of their year, and we believe that this year's will be our best Christmas show yet. The very popular Café M creperie is also back by popular demand, so audiences can enjoy a delicious bite to eat and drink at their table before the show or in the interval."

Tickets for Han's Christian Andersen's Magical Tales are on sale now from the Box Office on 01865 766266 or at www.creationtheatre.co.uk.

It was a DISCO Summer!

THE SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT involved over 150 young people over the four weeks it ran over the summer holidays, an average of 60 to 70 a day turned up for events, workshops and outings based at Blackbird Leys Community Centre.

Project manager Marsha Jackson told Leys News that it had been a really successful and enjoyable project which culminated in a four hour finale at the Glow Hall, involving over 40 performers dancing, rapping, singing and performing in front of a large audience made up of family and friends.

She said that the emphasis was on positive lyrics this year. Highlights included a day long workshop with Pegasus Theatre at the Holy Family Church, a visit by a brass band from Bonn, the setting up of a Kids Cafe where healthy and affordable meals were on offer every day, as well as a trip to Alton Towers by 88 young people.

The disco theme was carried through all the dance, music and comic making. Sports were also on the programme and included football, basketball, tennis and swimming.

Ten workers and two volunteers helped out on the scheme which was put on the Blackbird Leys Community Development Initiative.

I WANTED TO start this issue with something a little more positive than my last; it seems other things are dominating the news: bankruptcy, footsy, whatever, whatever - it's wrapping up my fish and chips and that makes me happier.

So I have been really lucky, or I won't sound that lucky when this goes to press as the new Kings of Leon album will have been released, and you'll all own a copy. Or at least I think you should. I love it! It didn't take me long to get into these guys in the early days before the mayhem, for me they where a refreshing change in American music. Not only is the lead singer eye candy but they are a bass and drum lead band with raw southern roots and they use a cowbell, how cool is that? (Okay I'm probably the only one who thinks its cool, but that's the Will Ferrell lover in me!)

I loved the last Kings of Leon album, but for me it was a little way off - the depth just wasn't quite there. They have gone away and come back with an understanding about them, a feeling the listener can relate to and a sound that just melts in your mouth, honest. Skip to "Closer", "Be Somebody", "Manhattan" and "Notion". Play the whole record loud for added goosebumps effect.

Okay enough with the excited rant. On a more positive and rewarding note, I have been referred to the Exeter Hall on the 17th October to see a band called The Follys gig in aid of the charity Mind. All in a good cause and only a pittance of £4 on the door. Also on the night you can catch Carrie Rossiter and the Decoits, Bethany Weimers and DJ Toad!

You might be interested:

New chart topping-band the Script are playing at Oxford Carling Academy on 1st December. Tickets are on sale now although if you're not quick enough try www.seetickets.com you can find most sold out events here for a few extra pennies.

The Bullingdon also have an eclectic gig listing, with something for everyone in the backroom. Although there are no current listings posted at present, they have some events that run fortnightly/monthly.

Remember if you are part of the community and you have a music myspace or band, or even run a promotional club night, you can get in touch with me via leys news facebook or email me at twinkle_twinkle@ntlworld.com

Cheers from me
x

Centre for Clinical Vaccinology & Tropical Medicine
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This issue's Health Page is all about preventing accidents in the home. You can't avoid all accidents, but you could spare yourself a trip to A&E by keeping an eye out for obvious dangers.

Fire Safety

365alive Think Safety

What three things could you do to create a safer environment for you and your family?

THE Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's "365 Alive" campaign gives you three simple actions that will make a big difference to your safety. They are asking everyone to:

1. Check your smoke alarm once a week.

2. Wear a seat belt in a moving vehicle.

3. Have a fire escape plan.

Why have a Smoke Alarm?

It's simple, really. If you have a fire in your house, you are twice as likely to die if there is no smoke alarm. Or put it another way – you double your chances of surviving if you've got those precious few extra minutes to make a safe escape.

So make sure you've got smoke alarms fitted in your house, and check them every week. If the battery runs out it's the same as not having an alarm at all!

Most people can get free smoke alarms – see the section on Fire Escape Plans to find out more.

Get more information from www.365alive.co.uk or 08000 3272999. Or try this useful website: www.fireservice.co.uk/safety/smokealarms.php

Why Wear a Seat Belt?

If you and everyone in your vehicle are wearing a seat belt you stand a much better chance of surviving if you are involved in a crash. Research shows that wearing a seatbelt is the biggest single action that could reduce the number of people killed on Oxfordshire's roads.

Four out of five child car seats are not used properly. You can get your child's car seat checked for free by calling Julie Jones on (01865) 321682. For more info on choosing and fitting seats check out www.childcarseats.org.uk

What is a Fire Escape Plan?

We all hope it will never happen to us, but what if there was a fire in your home? Even in the daytime the smoke of a fire can make the house dark, and you would be in a panic. Can you be sure your family would find the safest way out?

A Fire Escape Plan gives you a chance to think this through before your lives depend on it. If you get all the details right now, you stand a much better chance of getting to safety quickly.

You can get more information from www.fireservice.co.uk/safety/escapeplans.php, but the best way might be to contact the local fire service. It won't cost any money: they can help make your escape plan, and give you some free smoke alarms into the bargain!

To book a free Home Fire Risk Assessment, call 08000 325999

How safe is your home?

Thanks to the British Nutrition Foundation www.nutrition.org.uk for use of their picture.

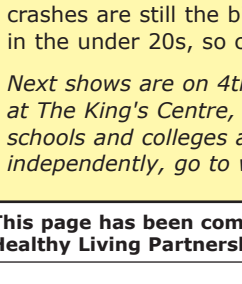
HOSPITAL STATISTICS SHOW that most accidents take place in the home: perhaps this isn't surprising, as we spend so much time there!

No-one wants to spend all their chill-out time worrying about possible accidents, but it doesn't take much to look around and make things safer.

Test your eye for danger with our Kitchen Hazards game (left). In case you need some ideas, here are some tips for kitchen safety:

- Make sure the floor is clear of anything that could make someone trip or slip.
- Keep on top of kitchen housework – dirty dishes and work surfaces harbour germs that can get into food and make you ill.
- Store knives and other sharp edges where they can't cut anyone.
- Keep pets off kitchen surfaces, and deal with uninvited guests like mice! Animals can contaminate food and surfaces with bacteria.
- Make sure electrical cables are not dangerously tangled or stretched, and take care not to overload sockets.
- Keep perishable food covered and stored at a safe temperature (in the fridge or piping hot).
- Watch out for pan handles, cables and other items hanging over the edge of surfaces. It is easy for children to pull them down, or for someone to knock them in passing.
- Smoking in the kitchen is not hygienic, and there can be a danger of fire!
- Make sure bins are emptied regularly, as germs can grow in them.
- Watch out for hot liquids and steam that can scald.

Are you a new driver, or have not taken your test yet?



A NEW SHOW for 16 – 18 year olds called Safe Drive Stay Alive is the one to watch if you want to stay safe.

It begins as a film about a car crash – but then the actors step onto the stage and you become part of the drama. Road crashes are still the biggest cause of accidental deaths in the under 20s, so check this one out!

Next shows are on 4th & 5th November, 10.30 and 1.00 at The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford. Some schools and colleges are already going. To book independently, go to www.safedrive.org.uk

This page has been compiled by Zoe Millington from Oxford Healthy Living Partnership.

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Answers: 1. Toaster could fall on someone's head. 2. Cable could be damaged by steam from the kettle. 3. Kettle cable tangled up with toaster cable. 4. Overloaded sockets. 5. Dirty dishes have built up and are hanging over the edge. 6. Cigarette could cause a fire. 7. Smoking in the kitchen can contaminate food. 8. Bin needs emptying. 9. Bottle on the floor. 10. Liquid on the floor. 11. Rug could make someone trip. 12. Roller skate could send someone flying! 13. Knife on edge of surface. 14. Cat on the worktop. 15. Chicken not covered or at a safe temperature. 16. Fridge door left open – might not be cold enough. 17. Pan handle sticking out. 18. Tray hanging over the worktop. 19. Sharp can in bin. 20. Cooking left unattended and pan boiling over.

Fun in the sun – Leys Fair 2008

September saw a green healthy day out on the Leys. Photos by Al Cane

Above: One of the big draws was the Bubbleman (aka Felipe Gonzalez) who entertained a large crowd with his giant bubble making. He was brought in by the Children's Centre to make a stir and he certainly did that with some of his bubbles shooting up into the sky.

Above: Some fell over, while others fell over laughing. The free fun zone was busy all day long.

Left: These girls who posed for the camera called themselves Kaystarr, Redskiue, Merkz and Jaydie. They loved the fair and Marsha's food but wanted more dance and activities for their age group.

Right: Go on make yourself a salad and a dressing in the Health Tent. Volunteers Helen Mann and Jemma Tibble at the Sensational Salad Bar.

The Leys Fair is a community wide effort this year, organized by Paul Isaacs, Natalie Huckin and Zoe Millington, with sponsorship support from Oxford City Council, Oxford PCT and the Healthy Living Partnership, Blackbird Leys Parish Council, Blackbird Leys Community Association, Dominion Housing Association, Catalyst Housing Association and Oxford Citizens Housing Association. The fair also receives support in kind from the Parks Services staff and the Leisure Centre, as well as the many community groups who participated.

Kingfisher Green street party

Anna Pavelin talks about the Kingfisher Green Street Party which took place on August Bank Holiday Saturday. Photos by Elliot Vanderhyde.

"At the first planning meeting, lots of people, including the young people who live around here had some great ideas: having a penalty shoot-out competition with a prize of a football signed by Oxford United players, Karaoke, a barbeque, a fancy dress competition, 'sports race' style games, bingo, a visit from firemen, art workshops, were amongst those suggested.

"Our first obstacle was that it seemed almost impossible that we could pull off such an ambitious event with no finances only a few people to do most of the work, but as time went on more people including local children and teenagers, got involved.

"With the help of other organisations such as Catalyst Housing, Oxford Citizens Housing Association and Dominion Housing who helped financially, Learning communities who provided a barbeque and PA system and Christine from Healthy Living Initiative who ran a "make a fruit salad" game, the day finally became possible and in the end we had a wonderful day with lots of activities and food. Lots of people worked incredibly hard in the run-up to the party, with Jan staying up late into the night putting together an ingenious outside board game, Donna, Lisa and Denise preparing food and June creating a tombola stall and Kayleigh organising a Kareoke session.

"It was great to see how many young people got involved with helping in all sorts of ways with preparations: making decorations for Kingfisher Green, baking cakes for the tea and coffee stall, making posters, shopping for food and lots of other ways."

"Another major worry for us was that the whole of the green was completely fenced off due to a new play area which was due to be finished two weeks before the party. Due to heavy rain and strike action this was delayed and there were many panicky phone calls made to Oxford City Council parks department about whether it would be ready in time. In the end the fences were taken down two days before the party!

"The final worry for me was the weather because we had been having terrible rain for two weeks before, for that there was no-one I could phone and hassle I could only pray for sunshine. Luckily those prayers were answered and weather-wise it was the most perfect day for weeks!"

Pegasus street party

On Wednesday 20th August a free summer celebration was held in Pegasus Road for residents and their families living in the area. Photos by Mentor Brasha.

LOCAL RESIDENT Gemma Strong was involved in the organisation of the street party from the onset, and was also working hard on the day face painting and helping make sure things ran smoothly. Local Streetwardens Michael and Jane were also involved in the planning and running of the day.

The event featured local band 'The Aboriginals' playing an acoustic set with a free barbeque for all who attended. Bigfoot the Clown was there entertaining the children and a bouncy castle as well as Hook-a-Duck and biscuit decorating organized by the Streetwardens.

Local residents brought chairs along which enabled people to come out of their homes and get to know their neighbours in a social setting and to build relationships with the housing association. Neighbourhood managers were on hand to chat with residents in an informal way, to break down any barriers to communication that there might be.

A majority of those who attended said that they would come again and would like to be involved in planning and organising similar events in the future.

The event was organised by local residents and Sasha East, Catalyst Communities Housing Association's Community Involvement Co-ordinator. The event was funded by a grant provided by a grant by CCHA.

Oxfordshire Mind

Events Coming Up

Friday 10th October
Mental Health – The Last Taboo? (Free event)
A talk with Dr Marcus Roberts on World Mental Health Day.
5.30pm at the Taylorian Institute, St Giles, Oxford OX1 3NA.
More info: Ellie Raikes 01865 263734 or ellie.raikes@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

Friday 10th October
World Mental Health Day
Yoga, Garden Activities, Relaxing in the yurt, Snacks and drinks, Music, Arts and Crafts, Samba Workshop (3.00pm). Everyone welcome!
11.00am–4.00pm, at the Barracks Lane Community Centre (access via Kenilworth Avenue off Cowley Road). More info: Antonia Hund-Goeschel at oasis@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

Friday 17th October 2008
Music in Mind
Trev Williams Music Presents: The Dacoits – compared to PJ Harvey and "husky, dark-minded garage-pop"; the Follys, who have recently been busy writing new songs for their forthcoming follow up EP "Maps to Nowhere"; High Risby – Stefano and Alice write surreal, catchy and quirky acoustic songs about almost everything; Bethany Weimers – an Oxfordshire-based singer, songwriter and composer, who mesmerises audiences with her captivating unique voice and beautiful infectious folk-tinged songs about love, life and days gone by; DJ John Anthony will be finishing off the night playing his funky house tunes!
8.00pm–1.00am, Exeter Hall, 1 Oxford Road, at the top end of Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 2EN. Entry £4. More info: www.trevwilliams.co.uk

Oxfordshire Mind, 2 Kings Meadow, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0DP.
01865 263730 nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

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*Offer on selected plots only and subject to our normal terms and conditions. Please visit www.homebuy.co.uk for further information. Prices correct at time of going to press. Computer Generated Impression shows typical Bryant apartments. Images show typical Bryant interiors.

Green Fingers

By Stuart Mabbutt

Give containers a chance!

GROWING PLANTS IN containers on balconies, window sills and outdoors is becoming more common nowadays, especially as gardens are getting smaller on new housing developments. But through this necessity to adapt how we garden, there are some interesting ideas and lessons to be learnt.

Some gardeners actually prefer to to grow vegetables in containers as they feel you bypass poor soil problems if you purchase compost from the shops. Also they feel they reduce weeding and digging elements from the workload and well as limiting problems arising from pest hidden in their own garden soil.

Growing bags, which you see being sold in many outlets, can be used for growing a hole range of different crops, and if they are prone to frost damage, can be moved to a more sheltered position if the weather forecasters warn of impending doom!

Other gardeners don't like the idea of container gardening as they feel yields are significantly reduced in containers compared to plants being grown in open ground. Concerns are also raised about pots being unsightly if placed near the house, as well as the plants need more watering and feeding if you grow them in containers.

Illustration: Julian Dourado

I can see both sides to this, but container gardening to me allows more people to dip their toes into gardening, and some people I've met may not have even been introduced to gardening in the first place if it wasn't for container gardening in its rawest form.

Any container (with drainage holes in the bottom) will do as long as its at least 9 inches deep, as long as it is raised of the ground a little so water can drain out of the bottom if needed. Salad crops, peppers, tomatoes, aubergines are some vegetables that will grow in containers, but the flower varieties that can be cultivated in this way are endless.

If the consumption of herbs in your household is high, you can have rows of pots in a well lit window sill containing sage, rosemary, basil, lemon balm, parsley and thyme. They will all grow happily and supply you during the winter period. The steamy atmosphere of a kitchen windowsill is ideal, just keep they moist.

It is advisable though to restrict your window sill to just a few things that you pick regularly, because those plants that are not harvested regularly often become long and straggly and soon look like an untended eyesore. So don't be too ambitious initially.

Just fill your window sill containers with seed compost, the surface should be about 1 inch below the top of the container, so if you water from the top the water does not run everywhere. But it is generally better to water from below and let it soak up into the compost. When these pots in your windows are growing, watering once or twice a week is all you should need to do. If the pots are located in a dry room, mist the leaves daily, but as I say, the kitchen is the best place as it is a moist environment already.

Once you become more confident with window sill gardening, you can become much more adventurous. Growing lettuce in shallow plastic trays or miniature tomatoes such as Tiny Tim are two possibilities.

Go on, have a go. Not having a large garden, or no garden at all is no excuse, we can all grow something.

Happy Gardening.

A big hand for the Leys

Local residents Tanya Prescott and Ines Kretzschmar tell Leys News about how they are passing on their experience through their coaching and mentoring services.

WE ARE TWO mums from the Leys, who having looked after our kids for a number of years as well as doing voluntary work in the community, for example, founding BLAG (Blackbird Leys Art Group) and getting the Glow Tree onto the Leys, got the opportunity to go to Oxford Brookes University to do a Masters Degree.

We have been sponsored by the Leys Learning Community and are now already in our second year of a Masters in Coaching and Mentoring Practice. It's been very hard work but well worth it, as it is a fantastic course.

In the first year we got the chance to be coached ourselves and found it a really useful experience, for example, helping us to see how we stop ourselves from getting the things we want in our lives. The whole process helped us to feel more confident and it was handy to get a different and honest point of view from someone who wasn't a friend.

If you want to bring positive changes to your life, here is your chance to be offered coaching for free in return for participating in our studies. Everything will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. If you are interested you can phone Tanya on 07799893747 or Ines on 07796796126 or email us at coachingresearchproject@yahoo.co.uk

Have you worked hard to get an education despite not coming from the "right" background?

Leys News wants to hear from people who have gone the extra mile to study. You don't have to have a degree; we're interested in people at all stages of the learning journey, including people currently working on their literacy and numeracy skills. You could tell your story in Leys News and help to inspire others.

Poetry and Storytelling in performance

A UNIQUE COLLABORATION between Oxford Brookes University, Fusion Arts, Starlight Enterprise and the Learning Communities Initiative led to an Oxford Brookes University module being offered to members of the local community.

A series of Saturday work-shops were hosted by Fusion Arts in June in preparation for a live performance at the Cowley Road Carnival in July. The course tutor, Steve Larkin, is the founder of Hammer & Tongue and is an internationally respected slam winning spoken word artist and singer. Six learners completed the course and have gained a Level 3 qualification. Steve thoroughly enjoyed working with the group and was impressed by the level of talent they demonstrated. He is keen to offer them an advanced course in the near future. There are also plans to run this course again soon, so keep your eyes peeled for more information. One student summed up the whole experience by saying: 'I was blown away by how good it was!'

Photographer: Sam Mortimore

Daniel Odong performing at the Cowley Road Carnival

If you are interested in taking part in the next course then contact Marie Jones on 01865 484866 or marie.jones@brookes.ac.uk

Black women's mothering experiences after the American Civil War

BLACKBIRD LEYS RESIDENT Jeannine Parfitt will be sharing her knowledge of the archaeology of black mothering after the American Civil War.

When asked why she become interested in this subject, she said "When I was at college the tutor chose the subject for me because I was the only mother on the course. From a female point of view and as a mother, I think that it's important that people have access to academic opinions of Black history.

"Because you have to actually be at a high ranking university to access this material, it automatically excludes a whole section of society that can read about this. You can't get this material from Blackwells or even Amazon. It's almost like academic segregation. This material should be accessible to everyone, so that it can be more widely discussed.

"It's a very emotional and emotive topic. I want to convey to an audience how black women coped, dealt with and moved on from their experiences after the Civil War; and how archaeological artefacts are being used by academics today to interpret family relationships between women and their husbands and children after 'freedom' ".

Jeannine will be presenting her controversial talk and inviting community discussion at The Glow Hall, on Monday, 13th October 2008, from 12.30 to 2.30 pm.

This free event is part of Black History Month and is being supported by Learning Communities.

There is disabled access and refreshments. Don't miss this exciting event.

Free health course for over fifties

A FREE HEALTH course is being offered to Leys residents aged 50 and over this autumn. Beginning on Tuesday 7 October, an Oxford Healthy Living Partnership course will run on from 2-4 pm at the Clockhouse Community Centre, Long Ground, Greater Leys. The course runs over ten sessions, covers a wide range of topics, and includes tips and fun activities - all designed to help participants stay healthy, and get the best out of local support services.

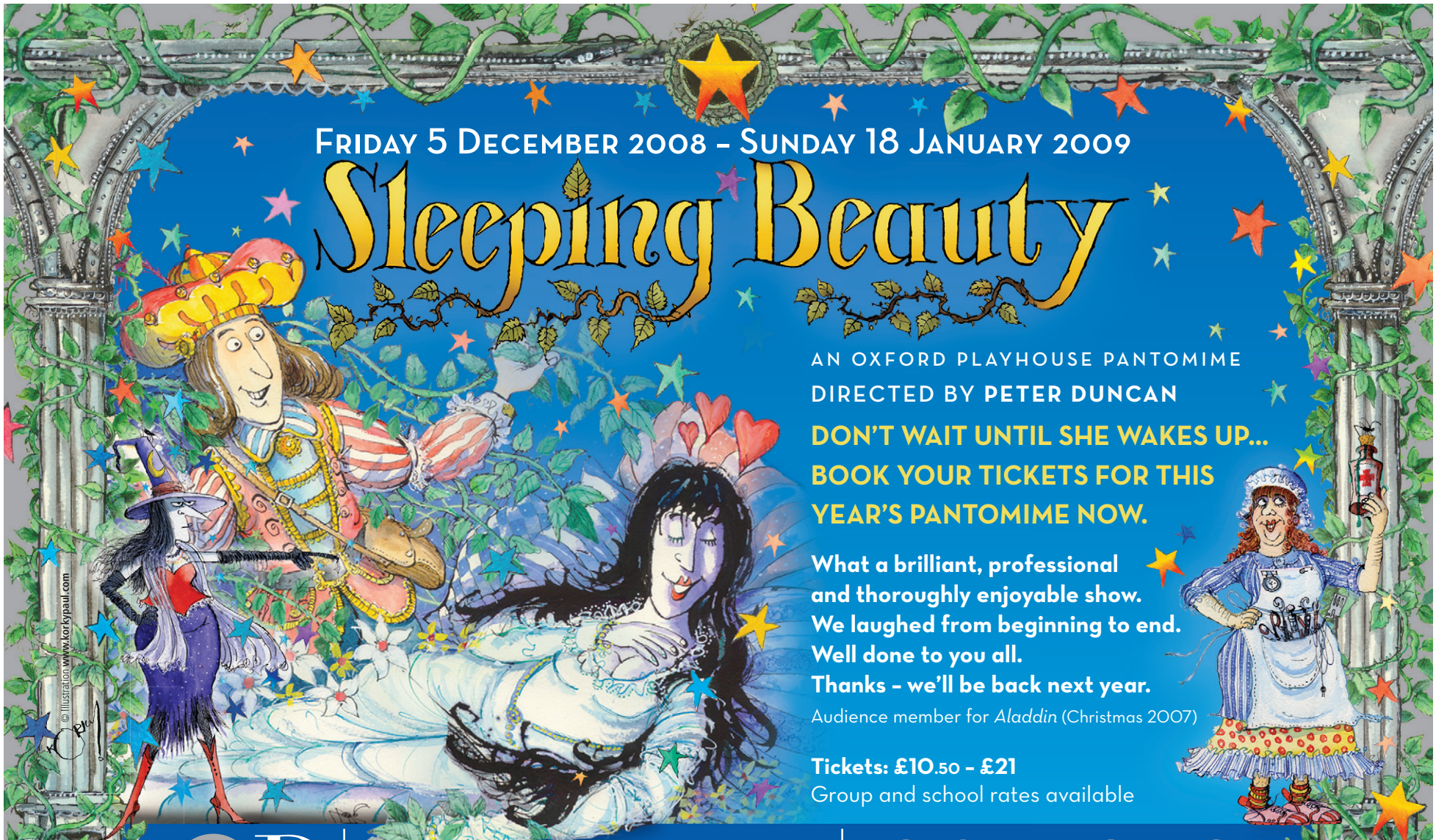
Themes include: healthy food and drink, food and home safety, staying active, budgeting and avoiding debt, positive thinking, and talking to your doctor. There'll be a chance to try hand massage, gentle exercise, easy first aid, and some healthy recipe ideas, as well as getting one-to-one advice from a health trainer. Help with reading, writing and maths is also on offer during every session if needed. For more information and to book a place, call Sally Meachim at the Clockhouse on 01865 395908.

Thanks to Oxford Brookes University for sponsoring this page. If you are interested in studying at Oxford Brookes please contact Marie Jones on 01865 484866 or marie.jones@brookes.ac.uk

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 2008 – SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 2009

Sleeping Beauty



AN OXFORD PLAYHOUSE PANTOMIME

DIRECTED BY **PETER DUNCAN**

DON'T WAIT UNTIL SHE WAKES UP... BOOK YOUR TICKETS FOR THIS YEAR'S PANTOMIME NOW.

What a brilliant, professional and thoroughly enjoyable show. We laughed from beginning to end. Well done to you all. Thanks – we'll be back next year.

Audience member for *Aladdin* (Christmas 2007)

Tickets: £10.50 – £21

Group and school rates available

OP | OXFORD **PLAYHOUSE** | **01865 305305** www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

Holiday activities

- Fun swims, general swims & family sessions. Don't forget its all free for under 17's
- Keep fit with your friends at Aspires Academy see literature for sessions
- Ice skating mornings, afternoons &evenings.
  Halloween Disco Fri 31st Oct 8-10.30

www.oxford.gov.uk

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Playzone is back!

- Supervised child care, whilst you exercise
- Mon, Tue & Fri - 9.45-11.15am
- From £1.20 per child under 5

Pegasus Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6JL
T: 01865 467020, E: bbleisure@oxford.gov.uk

We are always on the look out for artwork or poems to be featured in the Leys Creativity pages. If you want any of your poems, photos or artwork seen on these pages then send us an email to mail@leysnews.co.uk , or phone 01865 711756, or write to us at 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7BX.

DW CONTRACTORS

Many thanks to DW Contractors for sponsoring this page.

Junior wardens were asked to design a poster with the theme of "a cleaner environment" in a competition sponsored by Canact and the Streetwardens. This was part of the Clean-Up Day on the 6th August. Above is the winning entry from Shannon Pitson Barber, age 9, who won vouchers for Bowlplex

The life of a bird

The trees stand tall on this warm wet morn,
No birds in the sky, it's too wet to fly.
Though you know that they are there, hiding from the rain,
Hiding in the darkest trees, hiding in their homes.
Their young may be starving, but they do not dare,
To venture out to bring food there.
They sit in their nest and try to keep dry,
Trying to keep their young pacified.
After a while the rain may stop;
Eventually the sun may shine;
Then they will venture out, to hunt for food,
To feed their young, and change their mood.

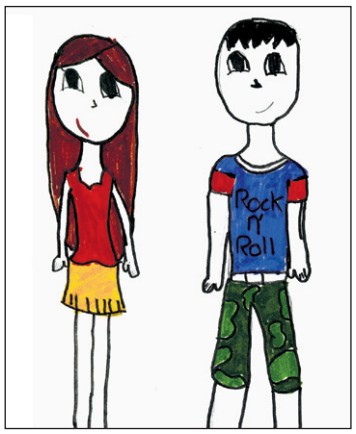
Such is the life of a bird.

by Jim Saunders

The Leys News "Draw your parent" competition results

I'm the Daddy!

Above: Winner Cerys, age 3, with her dad Robert White of Greater Leys.
Below: The runner's up entry by Carla, age 9.



LAST ISSUE WE asked for children on the Leys to draw a picture of their Mum or Dad. Our judges' favourite entry (shown above) is Cerys's portrait of her dad Robert White of Greater Leys. Cerys, age 3, wins the top prize of a twenty pounds voucher kindly donated by Wilkinsons store in Cowley Centre. The runner's up prize of an art set goes to Carla, age 9.

Competion corner

WIN! A family ticket for 4 for Sleeping Beauty

TO ENTER JUST draw a picture of your favourite pantomine character. Best drawing wins a family ticket for four to see the Oxford Playhouse's pantomine performance of Sleeping Beauty on Friday 5th December.

Open to all ages. Entrants can use any material they like: pencils, paints, felt-tip pens, ink, glitter or whatever you need to express yourselves.

Closing date 1st November: To enter, fill in the form below and send it with your entry to Pantomine Competition, 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, OX4 7BX, or scan/photograh your entry and send to editor@leysnews.co.uk.

Tickets for Friday 5 Dec at 7pm. Max 2 adults. Conditions Apply.

Leys News pantomine competition
(Closing date: 1st November)
Name: ..... Age: .....
Address: .....
.....
Phone number: .....

WHAT'S ON

A quick guide to what's available on the estate. If you have a service or event you'd like to include in What's On, please ring 01865 711756. For more info and monthly events listings, see the Leys Listings bulletin sheet, pinned up in community centres and other public places around the Leys.

Advice

Agnes Smith Advice Centre
Gives free independent and impartial advice. Drop-in sessions are in the centre Monday 2.00–4.00pm and Friday 10.00am–12.00pm.
Also in the Farmhouse Tuesday and Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm.
Call 01865 770206 for further information or if you would like to arrange an appointment.

Children and young people

Leys Kiddie Club
In the Dovecote Family Drop-in Room, Mondays, Tuesdays,
Thursdays & Fridays, 9.30am–2.30pm. 75p. ☎ Ruth Brown, 07985 637487.

Beavers (aged 6-8)
Blackbird Leys Scout Hut on Sandy Lane. Tuesdays 5pm–6pm. ☎ 01865 714104

BLAP after school club
1 Cuddesdon Way.
Monday to Friday 3pm–5pm for children aged 5–16. ☎ 01865 747704

The Barn Youth Project
Session for ages 7–12 is on Mondays 5.30–7.30pm.
Session for young people aged 13–20 is on Wednesdays 7pm–9pm.

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre
Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities and advice for young people.
☎ 01865 772886.

Cubs (aged 8-10½)
Blackbird Leys Scout Hut on Sandy Lane. Tuesdays 6.30pm–8pm. ☎ 01865 714104

Cheerleading for girls aged 6 & over
Leisure Centre on Pegasus Road. Tuesdays 4.30pm. 50p a session. Run by the Leys Youth Programme.
☎ Matt & Katie Gamble, 01865 427075.

Dovecote After School Club
(for 4–12 year olds)
Monday–Thursday, 3.15pm–5pm, at the Dovecote. Cost: 75p per session.

Parent session at Pegasus School
Each Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (Leys Children's Centre) 9.15am - 11.15am.
☎ Anne Wells on 01865 777175

Scouts (aged 10½–15 ½)
Blackbird Leys Scout Hut on Sandy Lane. Thursdays 7pm–8.30pm.
☎ 01865 714104

Starlight Black Child Mixed Heritage Group
At Kingfisher Green.
The group provides a safe forum to explore issues of race and racism with other parents and occasional guest speakers, while the children have fun playing and getting to know each other.
☎ 01865 776691

5-a-side football for girls
Leisure Centre on Fridays.
5–6pm for years 3–6.
6-7pm for years 7 upwards.
Cost 50p. Run by the Leys Youth Programme.
☎ Matt & Katie Gamble, 01865 427075

5-a-side football for boys
Leisure Centre on Fridays.
4-5pm for school years 3–6.
5-6pm for years 7–9.
6-7pm for years 10 & 11.
Cost 50p. Run by the Leys Youth Programme.
☎ Matt & Katie Gamble, 01865 427075.

Computers

Blackbird Leys IT Hub (Blitz)
Blitz runs a drop-in when you can use the computers for free. 9.30am–4.30pm Monday to Fridays, 10am–1pm Saturdays. ☎ John 01865 714492

Learning and education

Able Centre
Free courses in Maths and English in friendly groups.
☎ Annette, 01865 776334

Oxford Brookes
Offer tasters and introductory higher education modules at special rates for Leys residents.
☎ Marie Jones 01865 484866
Marie.jones@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Women's Training Scheme
☎ Helen McLuckie 01865 550227
hmcluckie@ocuc.ac.uk

Leys Theology Programme

Three short courses to exercise your mind for the autumn

Tasters: (so you can see if it is for you): Wednesday 1st October 7pm–8.30pm, and Friday 3rd October 10–11.30am

1. It's all Greek to me! An introduction to learning the original Greek of the New Testament. Not just for those interested in the Bible but good for general mental development and great fun to learn. Wed 7pm-8pm starting 8th October; and Fri 10-11am starting 10th October.

2. The First Gospel: The gospel of Mark easily gets lost between Matthew and Luke. This course is an introduction to a powerful and startling piece of literature and a chance to explore what we know about how the different stories about Jesus evolved. Wed 8–9pm from 8th October; and Fri 11am–12 from 10th October.

3. Wisdom: An introduction to the wisdom tradition in Judaism and Christianity, including a fresh look at some ancient sages; the creation of the universe and the mythical figure of Holy Wisdom in the bible. Wed 26th November, 7-9pm; and Fri 28th November, 10am-12 (finishing on 17th and 19th December respectively).

Venue will be at Blackbird Leys Community Centre. For further info and to reserve a place (limited to 12) please call Jim on 07920211405

Wellbeing

The Listening Centre.
Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre.
Mondays: 12.30pm–8.30pm.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 5.30pm–8.30pm. ☎ 01865 794794

Oxford Survivors Free Drop-in
A self-help group of people who use or have used Mental Health Services. Relax, read, play board games, chat. Snacks, hot lunch and drinks available.
Fri and Sat, 10.30am–3.30pm
Blackbird Leys Community centre.
☎ 01865 455868 (answerphone)
oxford.survivors@supanet.com

Slimming World.
Every Thursday at the Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road, 7.00pm
☎ Gill 01865 730009

Leisure

Boxing training. Youth Centre at the Leys Linx Centre on Blackbird Leys Rd. Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7.30–9.00pm. ☎ 01865 715815.

Blackbird Leys Choir
Orchard Meadow School Hall, Wed, 6.30pm– 8.30pm. ☎ Zoe 07870377251

Irish dancing
Sacred Heart Hall. Weds & Thurs, 5pm.

Property

First Floor Flat For sale in Greater Leys £125,000.
One Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Rear garden.
☎ 07974 791319 to view

An Exciting, thought provoking and challenging play called 'SECRETS' by Peter Cansell comes to the Leys. Talented local Year 6 children are taking the lead

THERE IS BUZZING excitement in the air. 14 children from seven local schools have been successful in the auditions and are now the cast of the 'Secrets' play. Of course, they love to be out of school one day per week and it is great fun to rehearse the play with enthusiastic producer Hugh Turner (What Matters Theatre-in-Education) in the Barn in Greater Leys.

However, the rehearsals are far from being an easy ride because within the drama the children are facing real life issues where even adults don't have answers for. 'Secrets' is about drinking, smoking, sniffing, eating disorders, stealing, peer pressure, violence in families and more. It raises questions about friendship, to keep or not to keep secrets and making your own decisions.

"Our acting gets the message through better than teachers 'teaching'!" (Year 6 cast member)

Therefore day performances will be held for all year 6 children of each participating school (Orchard Meadow, Pegasus, St. John Fisher, Windale, Mabel Prichard, Rose Hill, and John Henry Newman) in October 2008. After the 40 minute performances the cast stays in their role and the audience can ask questions. All year 6 teachers have been trained to use the drama as stimulus for creative and sensitive work with all year 6 children after the performances.

Working towards a safer community the Looking After Yourself Project is proud to have initiated this exciting drama project on the Leys, funded by Nationwide Foundation and the SOX Partnership, supported by all 7 local schools, Oxford City Council, Catalyst Housing and Host.

A special thank you to the brilliant cast of 'Secrets' for their hard work, enthusiasm and great ideas. They are the real stars of the project.

Please come to the evening performance held for parents and adults of the community on:
Monday, the 13th of October, at 7.00 pm at the Barn in Greater Leys, followed by an open discussion:
Hugh (Producer), Peter (play writer), Dave (School Police Officer) Ines (Looking After Yourself Project), Karen (Healthy Schools Team), and Liz (Domestic Violence Co-ordinator) will be there to answer your questions raised through the play.

Older people

Silver Circle
Meets at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre on Blackbird Leys Road. Tuesdays 1.00pm–3.30pm. Meet for trips, chats, tea, and bingo. ☎ 01865 435954.

Golden Circle
Meets for bingo, trips and tea at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre on Blackbird Leys Road. Thursdays 1.00pm–3.30pm. ☎ 01865 460592.

Stretch and Relax
Gentle exercise group for over 50s, Clockhouse Community Centre, Long Ground, Greater Leys every Tuesday 10-11 am. £1.50 includes refreshments afterwards.
Tel: 01865 395908.

Tai chi for the over 50s
Clockhouse community centre every Thursday, 10am–11am, £1.50.
Free refreshments afterwards (tea & light lunch) ☎ 01865 395908 or 07972751317

Monday lunch club for the over-50s
Clockhouse, 10am–1.30pm.

Thursday lunch club for the over-50s
The Barn, 10am–2pm.

Leys Over 60s Club.
Holy Family Church Hall. Wednesdays from 1.30pm–4pm. Meet for trips, bingo, card games, a chat and free refreshments.

. . . Church News . . .

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

☎ Fr. David Hartley, 01865 779658.
Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys OX4 6BD. Car park in Poulton Place.
Serving Blackbird Leys, Greater Leys, Garsington and Cuddesdon.

Regular Services:
Sundays: Masses, 9.30am & 6.00pm.
Mondays: Mass, 9.00am.
Tuesdays: Rosary, 7.00pm, and Mass, 7.30pm.
Thursdays: Adoration, 6.30pm, and Mass, 7.00pm.
Fridays: Mass, 9.00am.
Saturday: Mass, 10.00am, and Confessions, 10.30am.

Mass in Portuguese:
We now have a Brazilian priest, Fr Frederico Ribeiro, working with Sacred Heart, and he will celebrate mass every Sunday at 12 noon. Everyone is very welcome.

Friday 17th October
Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church, 7.00pm with Bishop William Kenney coming to confirm a group of young people who have been preparing since June.

The Church of the Holy Family

☎ Rev'd David Parry 01865 778728.
Regular Services: All are welcome to our regular Sunday communion services at 10.00am - there is special provision for children. And if you prefer a more meditative style of worship why not come along at 6.30pm, for Time Out - for those of us who need a bit of space.

On Tuesdays at 9.00am we have short morning prayers for anyone to attend. On Wednesdays we have prayers for the Leys community at 1.00pm.

Every Sunday there are services with Eucharist at 10.00am; for part of the service, children may attend our lively children's church. At 6.30pm Time Out is a short reflective service with different styles of worship each week.

Saturday October 18th
Sponsored Walk, Dorchester Abbey to Blackbird Leys along the Roman Road
☎ 01865 778728

Sunday November 2nd
Remembering All Souls, 6.30 pm

Saturday December 6th
Christmas Fayre

The Leys Community Church

☎ Richard and Kate Colbrook, 01865 714153.
The Leys Community Church meets at 3.30pm on a Sunday afternoon at the Church of the Holy Family.
Meetings include special activities for children and young people.

Leys Lunch Club

The Leys Lunch Club, which meets every Thursday at the Barn between 10.30am and 2pm, has been in existence for over 10 years and is on the lookout to welcome new members. Lunch, which is served at noon, is taken from a varied selection, costs £3, and also includes a pudding. The club organizes two annual trips to the seaside and last year got in a shopping trip to Milton Keynes, as well as a pantomime trip to the Playhouse in Oxford.

The club always welcomes new members. Chairman of the Leys Lunch Club is Anne Appleton, who can be reached for further information on 422231.

Grandmaster Kongjie Gou striking a tai chi pose at his demonstration and workshop at the Leys Fair. He teaches the chen style Tai Chi to the over 50's every Thursday morning at the Clockhouse on Long Ground, Greater Leys. He teaches other classes in Oxford through the Oxford Taiji Gongfu Institute.

. . . Your local representatives . . .

Parish Council

Chairman: Gordon Roper, **Vice Chair:** Gerry Webb, **Parish Clerk:** Sue Lee, **Treasurer:** Susan Fitzsimons.
Non-position holders: Anne Booker, Chris Hatton, Rae Humberstone (*see City Council section below*), Danny Johnston, Rik Marshall, Sophia Marshall, Cyril Martin, Carol Roberts, Rosemary Morlin, Val Smith *(see City Council and County Council sections)*, Pat Stannard.
For further details telephone 01865 734346 during office hours of 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday. Answering service outside office hours. The mailing address for the Parish Council is 10 Swan Street, Oxford OX29 4HU.

Oxford City Council

Blackbird Leys Ward:
Val Smith - *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD ☎ 01865 305080
Email: valsmith@gmail.com or cllrvsmith@oxford.gov.uk (her city councillor entry)

Rae Humberstone - *Labour*
75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys ☎ 07936 3390018 or 01865 779678
Email: cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uks

Both Val Smith and Rae Humberstone will be doing street surgeries every other week and leafleting through people's doors when they are in the area. They can visit people in their homes - ring or email to make arrangements or they can be seen in the Community Centre on Saturday mornings or in the Leisure Centre at other times.

Northfield Brook Ward:
Stuart Craft - *Independent Working Class Association*
Furlong Close, Oxford OX4 4QJ ☎ 07733 274324
Surgery: Every Tuesday from 6.30 - 7.30pm at the Clockhouse, Greater Leys.

Jane Elizabeth Lacey - *Independent Working Class Association*
71 Knights Road, Blackbird Leys ☎ 07947 225297
Surgery: Tuesday from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at the Clockhouse, Greater Leys.

Oxfordshire County Council

Leys & Lye Division:
Val Smith - *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD ☎ 01865 305080
Email: val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Surgery: 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 11am - 12pm at Blackbird Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road

Barbara Gatehouse - *Labour*
51 Ash Grove, Headington
Oxford OX3 9JN
☎ 01865 741060
Barbara.gatehouse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Member of Parliament for Oxford East
Andrew Smith - *Labour*
Unit 1, Newtec Place,
Magdalen Road,
Oxford OX4 1RE
☎ 01865 305080
andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

Surgery: Every 3rd Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

WHAT DO AREA COMMITTEES DO?

The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

Abandoned vehicles, allotments, cemeteries, decisions on planning applications, dog wardens, ditches and streams, public toilets, car parks, parks & countryside management, street cleaning, street naming, community centres.

SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Monday 13th October
Rose Hill Community Centre
6.30pm

Monday 3rd November
Cardinal House, Littlemore
6.30pm

Monday 1st December
Council Chamber, Town Hall
6.30pm

Ring 01865 252249 for further information

Greater football skills

Introducing the newly-formed Greater Leys Youth Football Club

THE GREATER LEYS Youth Football Club held a morning of free football training on Saturday 27 September at Blackbird Leys Park for six to nine year olds.

Team manager and club chairman Nick Courtney-Cramp said "The coaches and managers of GLYFC have decided to hold monthly coaching days for boys and girls ages six through to nine. This is to give something back to the community to show our appreciation for all the help and support we've had from everyone and to progress the club forward."

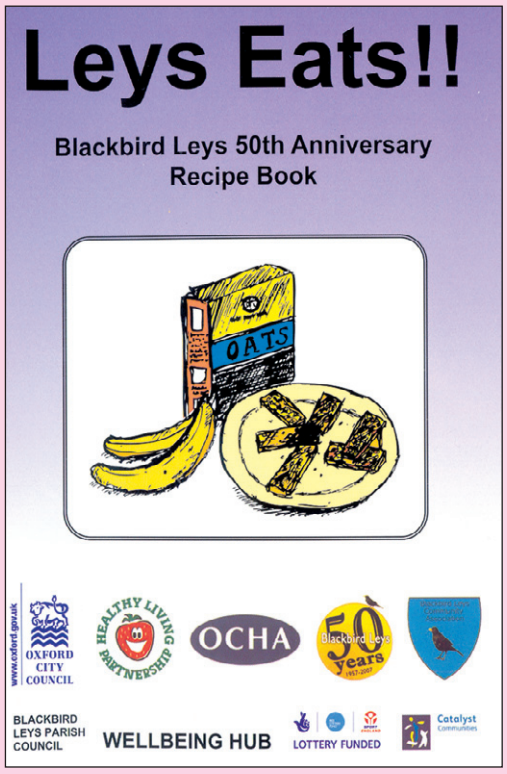
The newly-formed club has teams at the under 11, 12 and 15 age groups and were present at the recent Leys Fair telling people about themselves and taking part in a spot of fundraising. The club has also received help from Catalyst Housing Association.

Pictured here are some of the club's members, supporters and coaches at the Fair. To find out more contact Nick on 07862236540.

Oxford Blackbirds Football Club

THE LONG ESTABLISHED Oxford Blackbirds Football Club run training sessions in Blackbird Leys Park and the Leisure Centre on Tuesday evenings for the under 8's, 12's, 13's, 15A's and 16's. On Wednesdays it's the under 9's, 10's, 14's A and B. Adults train on Thursday evenings. Further information is available from John Clifton chairman on 308934 or 07845315620 or Secretary Kevin Trendall on 712178 or 07879400364.

FREE Recipe books to give away!



We still have a few copies of the *Leys Eats!!* recipe book created as one of the Blackbird Leys 50 projects.
If you would like a free copy please email your name and address to officemanager@leysnews.co.uk or phone Anna on 01865 711756

Dovecote

Saturday Club

Re-Starts

Saturday 4th October 2008

10am until 1pm
£2.00 per child per session

Come along and have lots of fun, meet new friends, play games and much, much more